

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 12, 19 and 25 are amended and claims 32-34 are added. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representatives by Examiners Schaffer and Mancuso during the May 31 personal interview and the follow-up telephone exchanges on June 13-14. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interviews is incorporated into the following remarks.

I. §102 Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 1-31 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,269,188 to Jamali et al. ("Jamali"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites a method for automatic triage of a text passage outputted by an optical character recognition system, **the OCR-output text passage having multiple text segments, individual ones of the text segments including at least one** OCR-output character, the method including, *inter alia*, "determining an error rate for the OCR-output text passage **as a whole** using a triage model and . . . comparing the determined error rate for the OCR-output text passage with an OCR-output text passage threshold error rate to perform an OCR-output text passage triage decision," (emphasis added).

During the personal interview, Applicant's representatives asserted and the Examiners agreed that currently cited prior art references do not teach "determining an error rate for the OCR-output text passage **as a whole**," as recited in the claims.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the applied art. Independent claims 12, 19 and 25 include a feature similar to the feature addressed above with respect to claim 1 and are, therefore, patentably

distinguishable over the applied art for at least the same reasons addressed above. Claims 2-11, 13-18, 20-24 and 26-31 depend from independent claims 1, 12, 19 and 25, collectively, and are likewise patentably distinguishable over the applied art for at least their dependence on allowable base claims, as well as for additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

II. New Claims

Claims 32-34 are added. Support for claims 32-34 may be found throughout the original specification and drawings. For example, specific support may be found at least at Figs. 5, 6 and 9 and at paragraphs 48-49, 51-62 and 69-71 of the original specification.

Independent claim 32 recites a method for automatic triage of a text passage outputted by an optical character recognition system that includes, among other features, automatically training a triage model during a triage model training period with labeled training data that is generated from scanned images of text pages with corresponding validated characters from the text pages. The currently cited prior art does not teach or suggest such a feature.

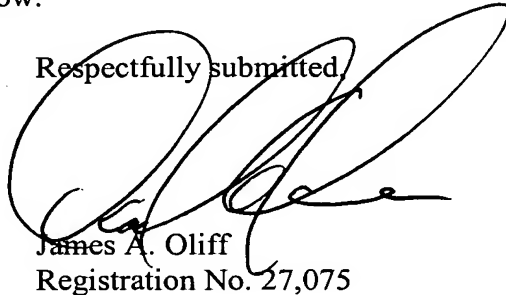
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 32 is patentably distinguishable over the applied art. Claims 33 and 34 depend from independent claim 32 and are likewise patentably distinguishable over the applied art for at least their dependence on allowable base claims, as well as for additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-34 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Request for Continued Examination
Amendment Transmittal

Date: July 5, 2006

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